

Justin Amash Position Paper on U.S.-Israel Relations

The United States has a long and strategically important history of strong foreign relations with Israel. As a member of Congress, I will work to continue and strengthen this relationship. I will also respect Israel's sovereignty and will not support counterproductive efforts to impose agreements or conditions on Israel. Israel must manage its foreign relations and domestic policies as it deems to be in its own best interests as a sovereign nation.

Israelis and Palestinians

I share former President George W. Bush's vision of two independent states, Israel and Palestine—two peoples, living side by side in peace and security.

Israel's borders must be secure, recognized, and defensible, and it must be free to respond to hostilities that threaten its people. Israel is a sovereign nation that makes its own decisions about its foreign relations, policies, and interests. A future state of Palestine must be viable, contiguous, sovereign, and independent. It must recognize Israel's right to exist. The use of incitement, violence, unnecessary force, or terror to achieve political goals must be abandoned. The parties should negotiate a just and mutually acceptable agreement on the status of borders, Jerusalem as a capital, and Palestinian refugees.

Extremism and the Use of Terror

Violent extremism is not consistent with a free society. Peace in the Middle East requires a sincere commitment to moderation and rejection of extremism. The use of violence against innocent men, women, and children to achieve political ends must be stopped. There are no excuses or justifications. Terrorism destroys the fabric of a free society by allowing fear, not reason and political success, to dictate outcomes. Because of this, a society that values liberty cannot tolerate terror, no matter its goals or rationalizations.

Iran and Nuclear Weapons

Iran's aggression toward its Arab neighbors and its leaders' repeated calls for the destruction of Israel mean that it cannot be trusted with the unilateral development of nuclear weapons. The risk that those weapons would be used offensively or fall into the hands of extremists is too great given the catastrophic consequences that would follow. Iran should be allowed to pursue peaceful nuclear technology within a sound international framework that verifies its commitment to peace.

Regional Peace

Israel, the Arab countries, and Iran share a land with enormous cultural and religious significance and limitless possibilities for economic development and trade. Lasting regional peace is possible. Israel, Jordan, and Egypt have shown that the differences among the parties can be resolved through compromise and mutual understanding. In the same way, Israel and Syria can achieve peace that would positively change the entire region and diminish the influence of extremism. Enduring stability, however, cannot be imposed by the United States or any other foreign power. It requires a sincere commitment and voluntary participation by the parties.